

Case 3541**METINAE Simon, 1894 (Arachnida, Araneae, TETRAGNATHIDAE):
proposed emendation of the current spelling to METAINAE to remove
homonymy with METIDAE Boeck, 1872 (Crustacea, Copepoda)**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application, under Articles 55.3.1 and 29 of the Code, is to remove homonymy between the family-group name METINAE Simon, 1894 currently used in Araneae (TETRAGNATHIDAE) and the crustacean family-group name METIDAE Boeck, 1872. It is proposed that the spelling of the spider name (based on the generic name *Meta* C.L. Koch, 1835) be emended to give METAINAE, while leaving the crustacean name (based on the generic name *Metis*) unaltered.

Keywords: Arachnida; Araneae; TETRAGNATHIDAE; Crustacea; Copepoda; METIDAE; *Meta*; *Metis*; *Meta menardi*; *Metis ignea*; crustaceans; spiders.

1. The family group name METEAE was proposed by Simon for a group of orb weaving spiders that he defined morphologically as ‘intermediate between *Tetragnatha* Latreille, 1804 and *Nephila* Leach, 1815’ (Simon, 1894, p. 726). The type genus for this family group name was *Meta* C.L. Koch, 1835 (pl. 12), with the type species *Epeira menardi* Latreille, 1804. Simon (1894) did not mention the etymology of this genus. However, several of Simon’s interpretations of names were later corrected by Thorell (1869) who considered *Meta* to be a Greek proper noun based on the name of the first wife of Aegeus, legendary King of Athens (Thorell, 1869, p. 35; Cameron in Ubick et al., 2005). Other uses of the family group name Meteae after Simon’s (1894) work were: Petrunkevitch’s *Systema Araneorum* published in 1928. This spider catalog ranked METEAE as the subfamily METINAE and included metine spiders within the former orb-weaver family ARGIOPIDAE (Petrunkevitch, 1928, p. 141). Roewer’s (1942) catalog followed the usage of METINAE, but considered it a subfamily within ARANEIDAE. Levi (1980) was the first to diagnose METINAE, revise the North American species and discuss its phylogenetic relationships with other araneoids. Platnick (1989) noted that the spider family name METINAE is invalid because it was preoccupied in the Copepoda. However, the name METINAE has been used by several authors in discussions of the taxonomy and phylogeny of these spiders (e.g. Heimer

& Nentwig, 1982; Brignoli, 1983; Levi 1986; Coddington, 1990; Hormiga et al., 1995; Griswold et al., 1998; Kuntner & Álvarez-Padilla, 2006; Álvarez-Padilla, 2007; Álvarez-Padilla et al., 2009). We have recently explained this homonymy problem and diagnosed the subfamily using the name *METAINAE* Simon, 1894 to avoid the homonymy (Álvarez-Padilla et al., 2009).

2. The crustacean family *METIDAE* was first proposed by Boeck (1872, p. 59) to include a group of Copepoda whose type genus is *Metis* Philippi, 1843 (p. 59), with the type species *Metis ignea* Philippi (p. 61). Homonymy of the two family group names arose because even though the generic names have different spellings, the names of their type genera have the same stem (*Met-*). The crustacean name *METIDAE* Boeck, 1872 has priority over *METINAE* Simon, 1894 (Article 23.1 of the Code). Unfortunately Philippi did not give the etymology of *Metis* (Philippi, 1843, p. 59) or specify the language of this word, but the name is probably derived from the Greek noun *mêtis*, meaning counsel, wisdom, skill or prudence. Its usual genitive is *metios*, so the stem would be *meti-* and a family name based on it *METIIDAE*, although there is a less used genitive (in lyric compositions), *metidos*, in which the stem is *metid-* and a family name based on it *METIDIDAE*. However, the original spelling *METIDAE* Boeck, 1872 seems to be uncontested as the spelling in prevailing usage, even if *METIIDAE* or *METIDIDAE* is the grammatically correct spelling. Therefore we suggest that the current spelling *METIDAE* for the crustacean family be maintained under Article 29.5 (Maintenance of current spellings of family-group names).

3. Reversal of precedence under Article 23.9.2 cannot be applied to this senior homonym because the name *METIDAE* Boeck, 1872 has been used more than 25 times after 1899 within Crustacea (Sars, 1910; Farran, 1913; Wilson, 1932; Guaita, 1961; Vervoort, 1964; Coull, 1977; Por, 1984; Gerber, 1987; Dahms, 1989; Meyer & Bell, 1989; Fiers, 1992; Damkaer, 1996; Suárez-Morales et al., 2006; Wells, 2007 and references therein). Therefore, the case is referred to the Commission under Article 55.3.1 of the Code.

4. We propose to emend the spelling of the family-group name *METINAE* Simon, 1894 to *METAINAE* to remove its homonymy with *METIDAE* Boeck, 1872.

5. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to rule that for the purposes of Article 29 of the Code the stem of the generic name *Meta* C.L. Koch, 1835 is *Meta-*;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the following names:
 - (a) *Meta* C.L. Koch, 1835 (gender: feminine), type species *Epeira menardi* Latreille, 1804 by original designation;
 - (b) *Metis* Philippi, 1843 (gender: feminine), type species *Metis ignea* Philippi, 1843 by monotypy;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the following names:
 - (a) *menardi* Latreille, 1804, as published in the binomen *Epeira menardi* (specific name of the type species of *Meta* C.L. Koch, 1835);
 - (b) *ignea* Philippi, 1843, as published in the binomen *Metis ignea* (specific name of the type species of *Metis* Philippi, 1843);

- (4) to place on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology the following names:
- (a) METAINAE Simon, 1894, type genus *Meta* C.L. Koch, 1835, spelling emended by the ruling in (1) above (Arachnida, Araneae);
 - (b) METIDAE Boeck, 1872, type genus *Metis* Philippi, 1843 (Crustacea, Copepoda);
- (5) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology the name METINAE Simon, 1894 (Arachnida, Araneae), spelling emended to METAINAE, as ruled in (1) above.

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